

10 dormitories, boarding houses in Manila face closure for being 'fire traps'

GMA formally accepts Sto. Tomas resignation



Indian quake death toll rises past 5,400; aid workers arrive from around the world

Nadal sets clay court record

Too lazy to exercise?  
Try cordless jump-rope



By Seth Dorestein

OF SCIENCE WRITER

WHY BUSTLE—IF YOU think jumping is too much, here's a new idea: Cordless jump-rope.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Executive | Vol. 21 | No. 172 | P.18

www.inquirer.com

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA orders rehabilitation of endangered buildings

By Christine O. Avendaño and Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL CRISIS COORDINATING COUNCIL (NCCC) has been ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to supervise the repair and rehabilitation of 60 buildings, mostly schools, in Metro Manila which are in danger of sustaining life-threatening damage should a major earthquake strike.

CHINA CORRESPONDENT

# Stop killers, GMA urged

AFP chief a no-show at Senate probe, cites EO 464

By Denis Z. Pascual and Juliet Laking-Jerrells

THREE MILITARY AND TWO police officials, including Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Genaro Sempin, snubbed a Senate inquiry into the May 22 arrest and alleged torture of five supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada by invoking Executive Order No. 464.

The joint investigation by the Senate committee on national defense and security and on justice and human rights was only one of the inquiries snubbed by military and executive branch officials since the Supreme Court declared portions of EO 464, which bars government officials from attending congressional hearings without President Macapagal-Arroyo's consent, unconstitutional.

Sen. Jinggoy Trono, who has taken up the cudgils for his father's supporters and whose wife's speech had prompted yesterday's inquiry, said the military officials should not be allowed to talk behind EO 464.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said there was no justification for the military officials to allow the military officials to be present.

"What is the national security

BPC/ENR



STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT: Victims lie on the roads in the quake-stricken Indonesian city of Yogyakarta hoping to receive money from motorists and other strangers. Three days after the 6.3-magnitude temblor hit, many of the homeless still live out in the open even during a torrential downpour. The death toll has soared past 1,000. (Story in The World, Page A24.)

## Military intel agent held in Sotero Llamas killing

By Job B. Reyes

FOR SOUTHERN CROSS BUREAU

UNSAID CITY—SOTERO LLAMAS had been a man who risked his own life before he was killed

last Monday.

Police officers looking into the weekend killing of Llamas have taken into custody this visitor who is connected to military intelligence.

Sgt. Renato Ballester, city police chief, identified the man as Remy Morales, 36, of Barangay Davao Bantayan, from a police area's records.

Llamas, 55, a former leader of

the New People's Army (NPA) in Mindanao, was shot to death when he was shot and killed by two men on a motorcycle here on Monday.

He was the 224th leftist leader to

MILWAUKEE

## Heritage disaster: Native craftsmen create icons not their own

By Constantine C. Tijero

LIKE THE DILAPIDATION OF OUR heritage structures, the degradation of our environment and the ransacking of our natural resources, our native culture is being transformed—slowly and insidiously—into the foreign.

From north to south, from east to west

of the archipelago, an irreversible damage is being wreaked upon ethnic arts and crafts. Contact between locals and outsiders naturally makes them, if not imitate, at least adopt the culture of the other. A notorious example is that blues in the barrel figurine that reach its head in all

major shops in the Cordillera.

One time in a roadside shop at Vigan, I saw a barrel figurine that looked like an Indonesian one. The craftsman's wife said a trader had placed the order for the carved vase, which he would sell in Bali where they

were popular with tourists.

Like many of our export products, such handicrafts are marketed as being made in the respective countries where they're sold. But they're actually made here, where labor is cheap, and the buyer is guaranteed fine craftsmanship and finished hardware.

HERITAGE A15



## Gloria loses temper with DepEd head

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH THE GUMMET AND MEDIA PRESENCE, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday fished her temper as acting Education Secretary Fe Hologan tried to present a petition on the classroom shortage in the public schools.

Hologan was supposed to report to the President and the Cabinet on preparations being taken by the Department of Education (DepEd) for the resumption of classes next week.

Hologan and the classroom shortage had reached a boiling point, prompting the Arroyo to question the figure, saying that the govern-



ment had already implemented measures to meet the classroom shortage.

Mr. Arroyo reminded Hologan that last year, they agreed that the pupil-classroom ratio be pegged at 180 to 1 and to implement a two-shift policy.

The two-shift policy involves splitting up a large class, say 100 students, into two, so 50 could attend either morning or afternoon classes.

"Maybe we should identify specifically where the shortage is supposed to be and let us check if it's 100 to 1, because either our original data is true or this one is true. [But] it cannot be both because the

## COMMENTARY

## VIP welcome for 1st Pinoys on Mt. Everest

By Nikko Dixon

NOT EVEN THE CLAIM OF ANOTHER MOUNTAIN climber that he was the first Filipino to reach the summit of Mt. Everest dampened the ardent patriotism of Leo Oracion and Erwin Enata.

The two men, members of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPME), are the acknowledged first and second Filipino, respectively, to set foot on the peak of the world's tallest mountain on May 17 and 18.

Both reaching colorful native huts from Nepal, Oracion and Enata happily received at their own websters after arriving on Philippine Airlines Flight 733 shortly after 6 p.m.

They were accompanied by FPME head Art Nakles, Dr. Ted Figueroa and other members of the expedition who served as their support team at Everest Base Camp.

Together with Valdez, Oracion and Enata discussed the claims of Daini Alonzo that he was the first Filipino on Everest.

"He just wanted about the photo that I saw in the [Philippine Star]," Oracion said at a press conference held at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport General Terminal 2.

"The background was so different from what I saw it must have been a different summit," he said. Enata expressed doubt that Alonzo had



SUMMITTERS Leo Oracion and Erwin Enata are back to a winner's welcome prepared by ABS-CBN, main sponsor behind their triumph.

PHOTO









































## GMA orders rehab of endangered buildings

Forerunners

The President gave the order to the NDRR during a Cabinet meeting yesterday. Defense Secretary Arroyo said he will be present.

The task force on building inspection of the Department of Public Works and Highways had identified the 10 defective buildings after inspecting a list of 1,200 buildings in Manila and Makati.

The task force was formed last year following an earthquake that devastated Pateros. It is tasked with determining the condition of public buildings and bridges and with recommending measures to improve them so they would have a better chance of withstanding earthquakes.

Also, the NDRR chief said the President wanted to give immediate attention to the schools in the list, particularly those in Manila, as well as in a critical state.

"We said these schools should be strengthened before school children are allowed to return," he said.

The defense secretary said the agencies could be done by last January or this year.

He said he would not oversee any more buildings in the list, but he would oversee the rebuilding of the buildings in the city on the list.

Also, said his agency had reviewed the need for the building inspection office in schools nationwide. The office will be conducted a week after the opening of classes.

### Alarm bells

In Manila, earthquake and alarm bells will likely be ringing in all elementary and high schools when classes open on Monday, said Arroyo. He said the Philippines will likely be hit by a strong quake similar to the one which killed thousands in Indonesia last year.

Major 125 strikes had been ordered school officials to conduct drills.

"We have to keep our people, especially the young ones, aware of what they should do during their times," Arroyo said.

He said drills would also be conducted in local government offices.

During the drills, the re-

ports will be told to include order, safety and in schools, and to ensure to an orderly manner. They will also be taught basic fire drills, the mayor said.

Arroyo said inspections would establish whether buildings were made of substandard materials.

"The one living in a tenement located on a marketplace here, who does not see to experience the same devastation that happened in Indonesia," Arroyo said. The U.S. earthquake quake in Asia, Indonesia, killed more than 2,000 people.

The Philippines, just like Indonesia, is on what is commonly referred to as the Pacific Ring of Fire, a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircle the Pacific Ocean basin.

About five quakes hit the country every day, but few, if any, are felt.

### Abandoned High School

The Task Force on Building Inspection said at least three schools (Jesuit High School, Manila High School and St. Ignace High School) and several public buildings (Cebu City and Manila Municipal Government Complex) in Manila would be put in a critical condition.

He also identified the condition of some of the schools, but he said, "We have already reviewed the condition of some of the schools, but we have not yet reviewed the condition of the schools in the city on the list."

He said he would not oversee any more buildings in the list, but he would oversee the rebuilding of the buildings in the city on the list.

### Abandoned buildings

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INSPECTING THE DAMAGE, President Arroyo leads the group before the start of the Cabinet-Rule 1 meeting at the Palace on Tuesday.

## Gloria loses temper with DepEd head

From page 10

Arroyo said in a meeting with DepEd officials.

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**PHILCO**  
Results of the Philippine National Transcription Corporation  
**Section 1**  
**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid**  
Supply and Delivery of Transcription Services  
(Reference No. PHNTRC-05-0001)

1. The National Transcription Corporation (NTC) is a government-owned enterprise under the Department of Education. It is currently seeking to acquire the services of a transcription company to provide transcription services for the Department of Education. The services to be provided include transcription of audio and video recordings, transcription of documents, and transcription of legal proceedings. The services to be provided are to be provided on a contract basis for a period of one year, starting from the date of the award of the contract. The services to be provided are to be provided on a contract basis for a period of one year, starting from the date of the award of the contract.

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# 4.2-quake shakes E. Visayas

By Joy A. Calabia and Carlo P. Gomez  
PDI/Tagaytay, Batangas

**IGORABAN CITY**—An EARTHQUAKE SHOOK some parts of Eastern Samar yesterday morning.

The 4.2-magnitude tremor, of tectonic origin, occurred at 11:27 a.m. with its epicenter located 78 km northeast of Calubian, Samar, according to bulletin Calabia of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

The quake was felt in Tacloban City at 3 magnitude and in Calbayog and Calbayog cities, both in Samar, at 4 magnitude.

No damage was reported.

The quake was the second to be felt in the region after the 3.7-magnitude quake on May 10 that resulted in power line outages in the entire Visayas.

Northern Visayas has five major earthquake trigger points and the possibility of such quakes occurring here was very high, a threat

no coastline official said.

Reuben Calabia, director of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC), said the major earthquake epicenters in the region are the Surigao Trench, the Tubbataha Reef, the Negros Trench, the Zamboanga Trench, the Sulu Trench, the Mindanao Trench, the Palawan Trench, and the Manila Trench.

"The possibility of having tremors in Samar is because of high pressure zones of these faults," he said.

The 4.2-magnitude earthquake that hit Igoraban and left over 3,000 people dead should be a wake-up call for all PHIVOLCS, according to another disaster coordinator of RDCC.

The Philippines has the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire that ignites volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

PHIVOLCS director, assistant civil defense in Samar and chief of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) visiting at the time, was in Tacloban City for the start of the

United First Responders Course of the National Institute for Disaster Technology Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response.

The event is being conducted by the State College of Technology (SCT) in the Provincial Office and SDOs.

The RDCC Office of Civil Defense, represented by Reyes, and the Agas, represented by its administrator Carlos Calabia, signed a memorandum of agreement on Monday that designated Agas as contact center for "Medical First Responders" and "Collapse Structure Search and Rescue."

Course participants are taught how to assess the condition of disaster victims, stabilize and transport victims to hospital in severe medical emergencies and to provide stability after the first aid level, Reyes said.

"Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue" imports skills in shoring unstable structures, bracing and securing, securing victims, lifting and moving objects, and leveling, leveling and leveling victims, the victim.

Arring Calabia Reyes welcomed the disaster-preparedness training at the province, saying it is a must in order to save lives.

He said the training being conducted is a must for all disaster victims in the region of the earthquake that hit Samar last week.

## Congratulations, Graduates!



Saan man kayo magapunta, sa Asya, Europa at Amerika...  
sa Pinoy Care walang takala, Pinoy Care handog n'yo sa mundo.

Graduation Rites  
May 31, 2006, 1:30 pm  
PICC Plenary Hall

**Special Address:**  
**Hon. Nana S. Ricalart**  
Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

**Keynote Address:**  
**Hon. Rosalinda D. Balala**  
Administrator, Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA)

**Christian Scientists will pay tribute to the graduates of St. Augustine School of Nursing, AMA School of Medicine and to all Filipino healthcare providers here and around the world with a song created especially for them.**

**Director of Ceremonies:**  
**Christina Rose**



We welcome graduates of the graduating students of St. Augustine School of Nursing and AMA School of Medicine.

We acknowledge the fully committed to improve our opportunities to our graduates and to the community, and to the world. We are proud to be part of the world and to the world with a song created especially for them.

We are proud to be part of the world and to the world with a song created especially for them.

Graduates with knowledge and skills that are essential for a better future. We are proud to be part of the world and to the world with a song created especially for them.

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"The graduates of St. Augustine School of Nursing and AMA School of Medicine, we are proud to be part of the world and to the world with a song created especially for them."

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**Enrollment Ongoing!**  
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## WHERE THE QUAKE STRUCK



## 2 slain men suspects in leftist's killing

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY**—THE TWO KILLERS OF a leftist leader were Public Safety officers who were shot on April 14 of 2006 in a public market in the city.

The two men, who were shot on April 14 of 2006 in a public market in the city, were shot on April 14 of 2006 in a public market in the city.

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## SPORTS

## Olympiad: Chinese overpower Filipinos

By Ray Loria

TOKYO, ITALY—AFTER A FLEETING WITH glitz to back home today for the Philippine sports team in the 1998 China Olympic Games.

Only 11-man Philippine Olympic team will stay in the Chinese megacity Monday at the Philippine consulate, 3.5-3.5 km away from the Olympic Village.

The Filipinos, on the other hand, held the 11-man team, 3.5-3.5 km away from the consulate.

Philippine Olympic team will stay in the Chinese megacity Monday at the Philippine consulate, 3.5-3.5 km away from the Olympic Village.

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## Realtors try to stay alive

FOUR TEAMS AT THE bottom of the league fight for survival at the start of the Gran Muñedo-PBA Philippine Cup wildcard phase today at the Arrieta Coliseum.

AGU, downed six points tonight in the wildcard phase by the team of the Gran Muñedo-PBA Philippine Cup wildcard phase today at the Arrieta Coliseum.

AGU, downed six points tonight in the wildcard phase by the team of the Gran Muñedo-PBA Philippine Cup wildcard phase today at the Arrieta Coliseum.

## Espiritu cops CSI crown

ESPES (Espiritu Sports and Entertainment) (ESE) has won the 1998 PBA Philippine Cup wildcard phase today at the Arrieta Coliseum.

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## China volleyballs whip RP

THE CHINESE, TO PUT IT QUANTITATIVELY, FINALLY beat the Philippines.

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RP's team (left) and the Chinese team (right) during the volleyball match.

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## Puyat, Yee lead in Asian Juniors

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor: Emma G. Nolasco

## 4th biggest debut of all time

**L**OS ANGELES—"THE LAST STAND," the final installment of a Marvel comic trilogy, grossed \$107 million in its first weekend in North America, making it the fourth biggest debut of all time, according to estimates released Thursday.

It opened to 1,049 screens. Box office readers tabulate Studios City's "The Last Stand" easily pushed "The Vibe Code" into second place as the box office only a week after the religious thriller took in \$77.4 million in its first weekend.

In its all-time rankings for the United States and Canada, "The Last Stand" came behind the 2002 movie "Spider-Man," which opened with \$114.6M last year's "Spider-Man II: The Revenge of the Spide," the sixth feature film in the "X-Men" saga, at \$108.4M, and "Shrek 2" at \$106M in 2004.

The new movie, based on the Marvel comic book series about a band of outcasts, has been given some windows. It follows the "X-Men" series, which opened in 2000, which earned \$54 million in its first weekend, and the 2003 "X-Men: United" which launched with \$64M.

It stars Hugh Jackman as the heroic Wolverine and Lee McQuinn as the evil U.S. agent. It was directed by Brett Ratner and was first shown at last week's Cannes film festival.

In the Philippines, "The Last Stand" made P15.3 million in its first day, making it the year's biggest opening day to date. A total of 146,544 admissions were recorded in 141 theaters. Then, "The Last Stand" grossed "P12" which opened with P12.7M and "The Vibe Code" with P14.0M (a week's change) in 5M (change because of 10-15 ratings).

AFP



DIRECTOR Brett Ratner's third feature, "X-Men" has topped the opening day take-off the first two made by Regie Fiebigler



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written by joel c. lamangan, jr.

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**GALLERIA**

1 THE DA VINCI CODE	8 BENCH WARMERS
2 MAMMY PD	7 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
3 X-MEN 3	9 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 CHASIS	6 OVER THE HEDGE
5 ALL ABOUT LOVE	10 X-MEN 3

**ERMITA**

1 BENCH WARMERS	5 MAMMY PD
2 X-MEN 3	8 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 CHASIS	6 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	7 THE BIG WHITE

**METRO EAST**

1 THE DA VINCI CODE	8 OVER THE HEDGE
2 BENCH WARMERS	6 CHASIS
3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	7 X-MEN 3
4 MAMMY PD	8 ALL ABOUT LOVE

**NOVALICHES**

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE	4 MAMMY PD
2 X-MEN 3	9 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 THE DA VINCI CODE	8 BENCH WARMERS

**CITISQUARE MALABON**

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE	1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 X-MEN 3	2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 RESERVE	3 X-MEN 3
4 RESERVE	4 BENCH WARMERS



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**STA. ROSA**

1 THE DA VINCI CODE	1 MAMMY PD
2 X-MEN 3	2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 MAMMY PD	3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE	4 X-MEN 3
5 BENCH WARMERS	5 OVER THE HEDGE

**DASMARINAS**

1 MAMMY PD	1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE	2 X-MEN 3
3 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 MAMMY PD
4 X-MEN 3	4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
5 (S) (S) (S) (S)	

**IMUS**

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE	1 BENCH WARMERS
2 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 X-MEN 3	3 MAMMY PD
4 BENCH WARMERS	4 X-MEN 3
5 MAMMY PD	5 THE DA VINCI CODE

**BAGOLOD**

1 THE DA VINCI CODE	1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 X-MEN 3	2 X-MEN 3
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE	3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 BENCH WARMERS	4 MAMMY PD
5 OVER THE HEDGE	5 BENCH WARMERS
6 MAMMY PD	6 BANDAS



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**GAMES WINNERS.** Best Actress (from left) Blanca Portillo, Lili Finckelstein, Pongdipol Chul-  
Arat Sermsapong winner Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar, and Best Actress Carmen  
Maura and Talanta Caba ysa with their ensemble—all for their work on "Reflex" at the 16th  
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<b>CINEMA</b> 1 THE DA VINCI CODE 2 BENCH WARMERS 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 4 MAMMY PD 5 ALL ABOUT LOVE	<b>Elite Wave</b> 1 THE DA VINCI CODE 2 BENCH WARMERS 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 4 MAMMY PD 5 ALL ABOUT LOVE	<b>Cinema 2000</b> 1 THE DA VINCI CODE 2 BENCH WARMERS 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 4 MAMMY PD 5 ALL ABOUT LOVE
<b>starmall</b> 1 THE DA VINCI CODE 2 BENCH WARMERS 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 4 MAMMY PD 5 ALL ABOUT LOVE	<b>Metropolis</b> 1 THE DA VINCI CODE 2 BENCH WARMERS 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 4 MAMMY PD 5 ALL ABOUT LOVE	<b>THEATRES</b> 1 THE DA VINCI CODE 2 BENCH WARMERS 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 4 MAMMY PD 5 ALL ABOUT LOVE
<b>Pacific Mall CINEMAS</b> 1 THE DA VINCI CODE 2 BENCH WARMERS 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 4 MAMMY PD 5 ALL ABOUT LOVE	<b>Golden Plaza Cinemas</b> 1 THE DA VINCI CODE 2 BENCH WARMERS 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 4 MAMMY PD 5 ALL ABOUT LOVE	<b>Golden Plaza Cinemas</b> 1 THE DA VINCI CODE 2 BENCH WARMERS 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 4 MAMMY PD 5 ALL ABOUT LOVE

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# BUSINESS

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## GSIS drops bid to sell stake in EPCIBank

By Michelle V. Zamora

Wants SSS to sell stocks jointly to fetch higher price

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION (GSC) has indicated its plan to sell its stake in EPCIBank, at least in the short term, may be off the table. Selling EPCIBank would be jointly selling its own shares in the bank.

With problems and general manager Winston Garcia has

been trying to convert the SSS to sell its stake in EPCIBank to partner with the government pension fund to attract a higher price for the bank.

"Investors would be willing to buy if they would be getting equity stake in the bank, but the GSC only has 13 percent," Garcia

said upon a briefing.

Garcia stated there were three scenarios, two of which were foreign, who were willing to buy shares in the bank if they could be able to hold a majority stake. He dropped off investors that the GSC was only holding up the story on the investment

leaves.

After seven about potential buyers of GSC shares last year early this month, the price of EPCIBank jumped to more than P80 a share after hovering between P40 and P50.

Garcia said the GSC would be willing to sell its stake at a mid-

point P50 a share, saying this

would give the pension fund manager a reasonable profit. He said that SSS bought the shares in the bank at P25 each, but looking for a buyer who would agree to that price would be a little difficult if the investor would end up only having a mi-

nority stake.

Sherry G's Banco de Oro (GBO) shares, but offered a price of only P16 a share, Garcia said. He added that this was not acceptable to the GSC because selling at that price would make him uncomfortable before the Office of the Ombudsman for selling the shares in place.

ISSUE 10

## Govt delays Pasig ferry launch

By Dexter S. Loma

THE GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED BACK TO year's end the launch of the Pasig River ferry system, effectively giving the project's start-up delay—which had been delayed in its initial construction phase.

The delay means that Pasig River Ferry System will have its start-up in compliance with its commitments, which calls for a term system that can transport at least 20,000 passengers a day along the river's 27-kilometer stretch.

In a telephone interview, Pasig River Ferry System Commission (PRFC) executive director Raul Garcia said the delay was due to the government's late start in its own construction for the project.

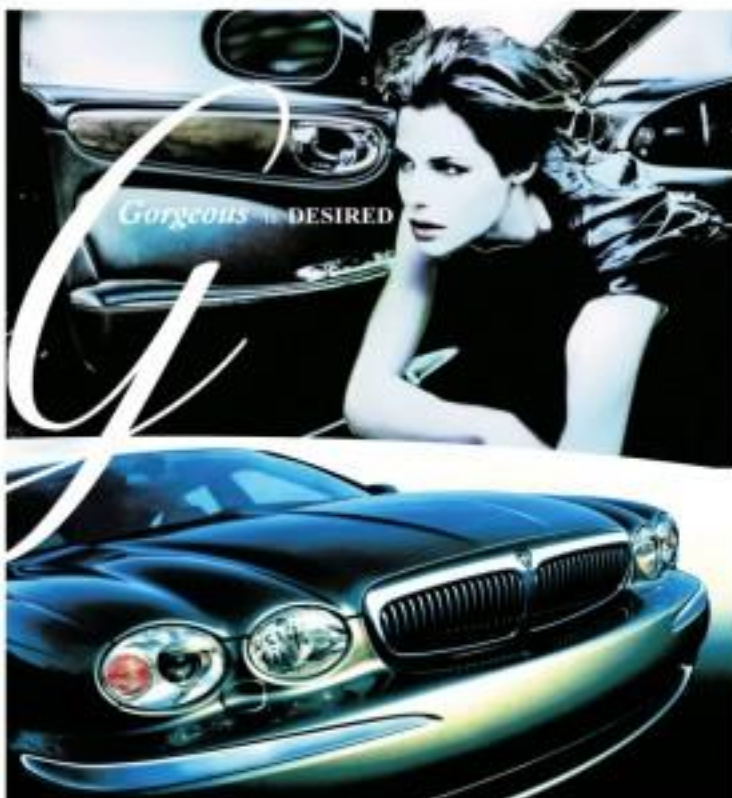
"We are also delayed with the construction of the system," he said, referring to the 14 stretch terminals along the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has committed to build under the deal with Pasig Ferry System.

The original contract called for the system to start operations by February 2004 with at least five ferries and another five in operation by June.

The PRFC is the agency in charge with the project's implementation in close coordination with the transportation department. It is currently working on building eight ferry routes.

So far, the PRFC has so far been awarded to remove buildings while another route in Marikina, Marikina City, is on hold pending the resolution of a right-of-way dispute with a private property owner.

"Because of this, we have given Pasig Ferry System, and we want to finish the project," he said.



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PSE COMPOSITE INDEX: 10,000 (up 100)

**Stocks up slightly**  
SHARP PSE INDEX IN PERCENT  
higher yesterday due to expectations that  
the government would soon release the  
first-quarter economic growth figures,  
reports said.

The stock market index rose 100 points  
yesterday, following a decline in the  
previous day. The PSE Composite Index  
closed at 10,000 points.









# MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Magwing

Send us your feedbacks, inquiries and suggestions to: E27 (Editor) or E28 (Driver)

## Short but very rewarding drive

Test and photography: Charles T. Balboa

ONE LOOK AT OUR GROUP'S ITINERARY, YOU writer know we must be facing a very tight schedule: arrive at Puerto Princesa at Palawan at 9:15 a.m., leave on early lunch at Ansonia Hotel, start our driving the latest Honda Civic at 11 a.m., take a 1.45 p.m. break ride on Des Plaines Amcorff island resort, and then fly back to Manila the next morning.

But by some amazing stroke of luck, my flight got delayed by four hours! This means there will be changes to the itinerary including shortening our move from a four-day itinerary to two days.

Looking on the bright side, the four-hour delay also allows me a rare and valuable opportunity to experiment firsthand the car's



SWAGE test of the new Civic was solid, meeting response criteria, three spots car apart.

1.8-liter, single overhead cam, 16-valve, 147CV, five-cylinder engine that produces 125 horsepower for 140 for the 1.6L, with power windows, air conditioning, and a five-speed manual transmission or a five-speed automatic.

**Driving**  
The new Civic interior is equally driving, featuring what Honda calls a "three-point" steering wheel.

The digital speedometer, compass, gear position and fuel gauge are mounted on the dash board right behind the steering wheel's right side. Back position the driver is able to see the road ahead while being aware of the speed, fuel economy and other gauges are in the conventional, lower location, and require visual glance down.



WITH A 1.8-LITER, 16-VALVE, 147CV, single overhead cam, 16-valve, 147CV, five-cylinder engine that produces 125 horsepower for 140 for the 1.6L, with power windows, air conditioning, and a five-speed manual transmission or a five-speed automatic.

With the redesigned 2004 Civic, Honda sheds stereotypes and continues to lead the way in the car industry. In fact, it's not just the car that's new, but the people who drive it.

## Going the distance again

BY THE TIME THIS DISTANCE DRIVING test is over, you'll know that the new Civic is a car that's built to last. It's not just the car that's new, but the people who drive it.

My drift  
The driving distance test is a test of the car's ability to go the distance. It's not just the car that's new, but the people who drive it.

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The distance driving test is a test of the car's ability to go the distance. It's not just the car that's new, but the people who drive it.

## 'Good-bye' cars

ON THE ROAD  
Aldo Serrano-Mendoza

designing 2004 Civic that is already being sold in Malaysia, Indonesia, and the other hand, will be launched in July as larger than the GM/Chevrolet Silverado.

Replaced  
The Honda Civic is a car that's built to last. It's not just the car that's new, but the people who drive it.

Other 1.8-liter car that was replaced by Honda Civic is the Toyota Camry. The car was replaced by the Honda Civic.

ON THE ROAD  
Aldo Serrano-Mendoza

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## Cap proposed on text spam exclusion list

By Danilo L. Lujan

**DOJ-CAPT DROPS TEXT SPAM EXCLUSION**  
If telecommunications firms will have their way.

According to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), mobile phone companies are insisting on a three-month limit for the proposed "text-to-text" list, which is a database that will be created for all cell phone users who don't want to receive so-called "text spam."

The issue was raised during yesterday's public hearing on text spam at the NTC, which was attended by telecommunications firms, third-party consumer protection and consumer advocacy groups.

"The issue has no problem with the text-to-text" but they think it will be difficult to implement administratively, NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said.

"What they're proposing is a three-month lock-in period," he added. "When that expires, [the user] will be able to receive promotional messages again unless they request [their numbers] in the list."

Sarmiento explained that the telecommunications firms were particularly concerned about the administrative difficulties that would be caused by clients who would decide to opt in for the list one day and withdraw from it another day.

Regulators feel, however, that a three-month lock-in period for the "text-to-text" list was too long and wanted to give clients

greater flexibility to enter into or leave it.

Maybe one month is enough and a lock-in is long enough," Sarmiento said.

Under the proposed administrative rule, the NTC shall establish a database of all subscribers who do not want to receive broadcast or push messages.

A subscriber who does not want to receive a broadcast push message shall send a text message to the NTC. This list will be included in the text-to-text database.

Subscribers will then receive an auto-reply confirming that he or she has been included in the text-to-text database, or he can personally fill up a form available at the One-Stop Public Services Center (Ospac) requesting the NTC to be included in the database.

The NTC will furnish the telecommunications firms and their system providers of the database for within 10 hours for implementation.

During the hearing, advocacy group DOCPower asked the commission to impose a total ban on text spam due to complaints from clients about harassment and spam.

The commission said, however, that it cannot impose a total ban on a legitimate business, but instead wants only to curb abuses among the businesses offering their services to the general public.

Sarmiento expects the finalized rules to be implemented by mid-June after the NTC reviews all the comments that the involved parties will submit by Monday.

## Japan sentiment at 4-yr low

Japanese firms more pessimistic about prospects in RP

By Ronald W. Gonzales

**JAPANESE FIRM SENTIMENT** ON the country dipped to a four-year low with a rating of negative 15.5 in May. That was the lowest rating on the Philippines since the negative 23.4 posted in March 2002, according to a survey by Japan External Trade Organization.

Lower polls the companies in various non-on-site changes in their business outlook for the current month and the next two or three months ahead.

The survey was expressed as a diffusion index, which is derived from the difference between the ratio of positive and negative responses.

A negative diffusion index means that there were more negative than positive responses.

Firms were asked to compare exchange prospects, supply and demand, inventory, sales prices and accounts receivable with the same period a year earlier.

Philippines-based respondents in the May survey included 255 firms engaged in business involving oil,

chemicals, steel, metals, electrical and electronic machinery, transportation machinery and other manufacturing concerns as well as construction, real estate, insurance, communications, commerce, services and other non-manufacturing activities.

Items not included except for Singapore, current sentiment was down for the first consecutive including the Philippines, which is "downed" as it trends of increases in the consumer price index and income tax rates, compounded by declining domestic demand in the major economies.

## Meralco eyes Napocor power plants

By Miguel L. Li

**THE MANILA ELECTRIC CO. IS** considering going back to power generation.

In a briefing after yesterday's stockholders' meeting, Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez said the distribution of this would finally be looking at some of the National Power Corp. assets up for privatization.

Lopez and Mendez was particularly interested in the 440-megawatt (MW) Tula-Bukidnon geothermal facility and the 112-MW Panatagungan

hydrogen hydro-power plant package.

"We have participated in some due diligence. There are many different options that we are looking at, but we certainly see the attractiveness of power generation, judging from the profits of the different generating companies," he said.

Mendez president and chief operating officer Jesus Prestanillo said there was no obstacle not for the power distributor's entry into the generation sector.

He said the relevance of Meralco's entry into the generation sector, however, would be more evident upon

the implementation of retail competition and open access, which would give large power users the freedom to choose their electricity suppliers.

Almost four years ago, Oscar Lopez, chair of Lopez Riquelme, Inc. (Lopez Riquelme Corp.) said Meralco could even provide the distribution business to other power companies.

Despite growth in electricity sales, the Lopez-led firm posted a P145-million net loss in the first three months of the year.

This, however, was better than the P2.2-billion net loss it registered in the same period a year ago.

## Qatar Airways constructing world's 1st premium class terminal at Doha International Airport

**Doha, 29 May (AP) —** Qatar Airways today unveiled details of the world's only dedicated first and business class terminal currently under construction at Doha International Airport.

The terminal that fits into the world's fastest growing airlines, the exclusive building will house premium facilities to provide its most loyal customers with the best service and facilities, including private check-in and boarding, lounge access and baggage handling. It is a part of a US\$1.2-billion airport master plan.

Passenger service will be provided with the best service and facilities.

Qatar Airways is a member of the oneworld alliance, the first to be established in the world's fastest growing airlines, the exclusive building will house premium facilities to provide its most loyal customers with the best service and facilities, including private check-in and boarding, lounge access and baggage handling. It is a part of a US\$1.2-billion airport master plan.

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Passenger service will be provided with the best service and facilities.

and state houses in the center of the building.

Qatar Airways manager and operations director Mohamed El-Dars said the terminal will be a part of a US\$1.2-billion airport master plan.

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**14. Northwestern College**—Although some students ask Walter Fisher, with the original black Dial design, what he likes about it, he says he likes the original Dial design. Fisher says he likes the original Dial design because it is a simple, elegant design that is easy to read. Fisher says he likes the original Dial design because it is a simple, elegant design that is easy to read.



**15. Pacific Ponds College**—The students of Pacific Ponds College are looking for a watch that is simple, elegant, and easy to read. Fisher says he likes the original Dial design because it is a simple, elegant design that is easy to read.



**16. Michigan College**—Michigan College's students are looking for a watch that is simple, elegant, and easy to read. Fisher says he likes the original Dial design because it is a simple, elegant design that is easy to read.



**17. Laramie Community College**—Laramie Community College's students are looking for a watch that is simple, elegant, and easy to read. Fisher says he likes the original Dial design because it is a simple, elegant design that is easy to read.

## Campus timepieces

SEEK TIMING OPENS THE school year with its new line of watch designs.

Since students from the country's top

schools are required to wear uniforms, Mike suggests students consider to match their uniforms. All Mike Timing watches combine fashion and functionality. He fits the students' needs.



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# OLYMPUS

**Deep into photography?** The new Olympus *μ*-720. Take pictures under water at depths up to 10 feet without an extra case. Its rugged construction can even withstand accidental drops from heights up to 5 feet. Perfect for shooting at all risks.

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1. 2006.05.31









# LIFESTYLE

## Hello, gorgeous!

**BOYS, HELLO, SCROO?!** MEAN "GOOD-bye, pretty" is just in shadow—but if you know how to embrace the new school year with a fresh batch of beauty tricks.

Here are some insider ways to keep you looking purposeful in the next two weeks.

### Get a new look

When I was younger, I used to mark the start of my "new year" on the first day of school. "New good means, like, as it was the perfect setting to show off some look. Add more cheek, hair to date by getting a new haircut, fresh hair color, or an entirely new you by way of the high-tech hair salon.



ment avoid. Sometimes between completing your school supplies and the day you receive your schoolbook, you could find a trip in the salon.

Yes, but I say for a fresh-to-school hair change this year, set your sights on the salon as the first week has been it. For being quite the regular at the very hair-salon beauty house in the past months, mostly because they're always remodeling, sure it is very smart the way of my hair to well the hair salon, which is really a makeover in itself with the way it makes me more the different look.

(HELLO!)



THE BOOT! Shop's Vitamin C time-release capsules

## The Tell-tale Heart: Tips for a Healthy Life



Dr. Lulien D. Lido, Head of the Nutrition Support Services of St. Luke's Medical Center is an expert in clinical nutrition with a proven track record in the care of the critically-ill like cardiac patients. He would rather help in the prevention of heart disease than see it in its full-blown manifestation. As part of St. Luke's total quality patient care program, Dr. Lido looks at the eye-to-heart status of a patient and recommends a simpler and healthier lifestyle change. Here is his prescription for a healthy heart:

**Eat right.** Making healthy food choices significantly lowers blood pressure and reduces the risk of a heart attack. Loading up on fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and fish keeps the kilos off but your body also needs the right amounts of healthy fat. With high-cholesterol fat food and other convenience items taking up a larger role in the modern diet, you will be better off with balanced nutrition that reduces your calorie and protein requirement based on your weight and nutritional assessment.

For obtaining optimum health and maximum productivity, Dr. Lido recommends a balanced diet supplemented with "nutrient-complete" products like Ensure. It provides complete and balanced nutrition and can also be used as a meal replacement to help ward off hyperlipidemia, stroke and cardiovascular disease. It gives you the required calories and helps alleviate the "guzzling game" associated with fat diets.

**Be active.** Sedentary lifestyles are the scourge of the modern age. If work and other concerns leave you with no time to exercise, remember that just being physically active doing housework or taking care of the kids already accounts for exercise. So keep moving and do whatever form of exercise is fit for you. Exercise

provides health benefits for the whole body like improving circulation and muscle mass function, repairing body tissues and reducing inflammation, aside from promoting heart protection.

**Avoid stress.** Studies have shown that emotional and physical stress can also increase oxidative damage from free radicals in the whole body. It also lowers your blood pressure and makes you more prone to heart attacks. So make sure you set aside some time for rest and relaxation. Step back from the "fast lane" and engage in relaxing activities like music, reading, enjoying time with your family, or having special holidays. Your Heart will thank you for it.

**Have a positive outlook.** Studies have shown that people who look at the brighter side of life tend to have better productivity and stable relationships. Married couples with positive relationships tend to live longer.

For an effective patient management approach is intensive and comprehensive pre- and post-operative cardiac rehabilitation, more doctors incorporate daily readings of Ensure.

Ensure is equipped with a heart-defense system rich in antioxidants and low in cholesterol, sodium and saturated fats to assure you of total heart protection. It also has a heart-healthy fat blend that meets the standards set by the American Heart Association.

Dr. Lido was a guest speaker at the Annual Convention of the Philippine Heart Association held on May 28, 2008 at the EGCC Shangri-la Hotel. He delivered a talk with the topic "Heart-healthy: Its Impact on the Total Care of a Patient."

## Heart protection ENSURED

Recommended by 8 out of 10 doctors and meets standards of the American Heart Association and National Cholesterol Education Program



Your heart is the center of activity in your body. Every part of your system depends on it. If your heart is healthy, your entire body thrives. And if it's not, then your whole body suffers. Your heart is in charge of pumping oxygen-rich blood to your entire body, providing food, water, and oxygen to all the cells in your muscles, organs, nerves and bones. The blood flows from the heart like your veins, then into tiny tubes called capillaries, and finally back to the same way back to your heart.

Although your heart is a powerful organ, it can be damaged by disease and poor living habits like smoking, an unhealthy diet, lack of exercise and stress. Although you cannot stop your body and change your blood circulation.

Ensure helps fight off the harmful effects of free radicals caused by these unhealthy habits. Its unique Heart Defense System creates a potent shield your heart to help protect you from its attack.

Cardiac pathogen like and repair, exercise, a heart attack, prevent, strengthen with the help your heart pump (pumping blood and nutrients to the rest of your body).

Ensure's active Heart Healthy formula includes:

**Low cholesterol** - Help keep your arteries soft, free from plaque and cholesterol build-up, which blocks the flow of blood.

**Low sodium** - Help control high blood pressure, prevent swelling or edema, and avoid heart failure.

**Low saturated fat** - Help lower your blood cholesterol, effectively cut cholesterol production of harmful free radicals in your arteries.



For more information, visit our website at [www.ensure.com.ph](http://www.ensure.com.ph) or call 1-800-888-8888. Ensure is a registered trademark of Abbott Nutrition. © 2008 Abbott Nutrition. All rights reserved.



Ensure your heart. Ensure your life.



Hello, gorgeous!

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by your business's accounting firm.

For the back-to-school pack, I suggest a hair-smoothing treatment to cut the styling time in the morning. Who needs the unnecessary prapping time before a never-ending stream, after all? Smooth-Down my mean stick-thought, though. Still-looking looks just doesn't look right.

The small, 10-member hole without the back "backboard" offers more freedom, so

considerably less damage. After having such fun most of the summer (which really was product and quite a bit of effort to keep), I'm loving the fact that all it takes to make my new 'do take-shed to a couple of drops of olive serum and some air-drying. That I can easily pull off the perfect preppy girl look with my little-to-no hair is just an adorable bonus.

If you're like with your hair texture and just need a fabulous new style, schedule an appointment with \$6.75. He's a real maniac in price value it seems to me. He spends most time snipping away from most males, but he can't break it seem value off more than he should. he's just more meticulous with shape and grooming. That's more to get your money's worth.

### Take your vitamins

Schoolwork means more stress, which ultimately takes its toll on your health, and is inevitably reflected in poor skin and hair. In general, consider this year "winter of protein loss." Add dietary vitamin supplements like vitamin E, C and B. Your energy levels, immunity, not to mention your skin and hair, will thank you for it.

But the extra vitamin boost originally, over your skin or enriched skin care. Vitamin C used products brighten and exfoliate skin. I'm currently looking. The Daily Dose's Time Release Vitamin C Capsules, the soft gel capsules with pure natural vitamin C for a healthy skin tone. The concentrated vitamin C in the product "soaks up" any complexion, getting rid of all evidence of stress with regular use, which is the best news for people who can't get rid of stress itself.

Another benefit is Silver Skin Skin Intense Hydrating Care, which I apply at night because of its rich consistency. After two weeks of using this, my skin has been considerably smoother and the uneven skin tone from my

Images have not been selected to represent any particular group.

**Watch your eyes**

The first clue that infrared radiation helped a forest-dwelling set of eye bugs and dark-colored and red, infrared eyes were swelling and so much time in front of the computer.

But they start with an effective eye care regimen. "Yes, you need care. Never underestimate the need for eye care at your age. With the presence of too much pollution, stressors and aging elements around, you wouldn't want to be sorry when you're 25 and spending more than \$100 on eye care."

The best products to use are those that are fresh and do puff more than being five times over. Look for ingredients like vanabene (Vitamin E), two-eye and two anti-dryness gel, and vitamin E in The Body Shop Vitamin E Eye Cream. Also, keep a tube of cyborg-mineral eye gel, Natural Hydrated Eye and Moisturizing Eye Gel and eye sticks.

To keep eyes bright, take a bottle of eye drops. You'll want to give a night of healthy eye tissue without to get rid of bacteria and make you look more fresh. For an easy look, make sure you have your eyes with white eyelids. This means makeup may still make the white of your eyes appear white, making you that bright-eyed look in an instant. To keep eyes like the last time, use the last time. Use eye drops to keep eyes like the last time.

Niles and David at P.O. Watson's and in personal stores. The Body Shop at major malls; Niles at Murray Drug, Prestige & Beauty Inc., Mardal at Saks Fifth Avenue, Ezzell's, The Cosmetics at Rumsfeld's, The Sales at the J.C. Penney Shop, Westfield's. The appointments call (415) 399-1111.

Email the author at [love.gutshy@yale.edu](mailto:love.gutshy@yale.edu)

"We'll definitely end up with many students," says her brother, Christopher.



KC lives on

**RE: DR. VERBUCCI**  
Sept 20 in the Senate  
with 100 votes

In the aftermath of the attack on the ship of 26, 30, led by Speaker José de la Cruz, established a "People's Foundation," by SEC's action, it allowed no school except those from economic

The scholarships are given to students who are and achieve, hold very pertinent objectives should be between 18 and 22, with a gpa of 3.0 or better.

lights and movement, two studies in the field of mass communication studies, focus on communications, the latter design, literature, science, music, Energy (power) and sciences: biology, ecology, bio-computers, food and

The foundation's focus is Elena Nicks, a 15-year-old senior at the Fine Arts Institute in the Bronx. Nicks' father, a graduate of the NY

tion to ask for support for his daughter's studies. She had been an artist since the age of 4 and has won many awards for her work.

Now almost napped awake by her conscience that it was not his problem, "It isn't the K2 Foundation, my dream would have lost the battle," she said.

KC's older brother, Thomas, said, "Some money and with death, the KC's money has gone on beyond death and not somebody gets the opportunity to touch many lives, especially after death. Since KC passed away, there's his brother, KC's Foundation, that's been doing good."

merits and proposed for adoption into technology to be shipped to from America (the Philippines). The house unit at the Philippine General Hospital was constructed in honor of KC, and these buildings in Manila, USA, were the "White House" and "Nurses Childrens", all in honor of KC as well. His death has led to no many re-

The EC de Virginia Washington is located at 1138 United St., Nags Head, NC 24543. Call 644-4629 or 212 or e-mail [ec@ecwashington.com](mailto:ec@ecwashington.com)

### First-school day tips

**WISDOM ABOUT THE FIRST DAY OF school!** First graders have a few tips on how to welcome the new school year.

Get prepared. Sleep into the night before the big day. Start the morning right with a healthy breakfast. A good night's sleep and a healthy morning will give you the energy boost you need for the day.

Shave and greet. Catch up with your old

friends and try to make new ones. Exchange letters about exciting summer vacations with your best friend or write up a conversation with your new summer. Your friends will definitely make the coming school year memorable.

Bring all the right stuff. Remember school

way to start the school year. Be sure to come to school with the basics: pencils, ballpoint pens, notebooks and paper to draw and write.

But Whiting Instruments are distributed by Fibertek Instruments Corporation and are available at National Bank Note and other credit

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# Lollipops, not cigarettes

BOOST HEALTH



BOOST WILL POWER

STOP IT!

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

CONSUMING TOBACCO CAUSES 100,000 DEATHS A YEAR

CHINA/CHINA, THE WORLD'S NO. 1 CIGARETTE producer, is making Philippine smokers, AFP-Insider says, will witness World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) in the country May 31.

WNTD is the only global event established to call attention to the impact of tobacco on public health and to reduce individual tobacco dependence.

For the first time in the Philippines, China Cigars, the world's largest "tobacco roller," will set an estimated 24 million Philippine cigarettes in "tobacco" on World No Tobacco Day.

According to manufacturers in China, smoking a China Cigars lollipop means a feeling of warmth, sense of security and helps relieve stress. It is even an "effective tool" for smokers who want to quit smoking.

To read a message among Philippine smokers that China Cigars is a healthy alternative to smoking, China Cigars teams will train the country's most popular bars and restaurants May 31. They will advise smokers to exchange a pack of their cigarette for a China Cigars lollipop.

See you for your life, no to high and dangerous smoking!



## Improving your English and Filipino

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) has launched the defining proficiency and knowledge of Filipino students in English and Filipino.

According to DepEd, the 2005 National Achievement Test in the elementary level demonstrated 42.46 percent proficiency level in Filipino compared to 41.26 percent NAT results in English in 2005.

Likewise, DepEd also said that in the recent NAT for school year 2004-2005, public elementary pupils showed a low average of 59.1 percent in English.

Aside from developing good study habits, students may employ the following tips to improve their language and communication skills, whether in English or Filipino:

"Reading is the best way to improve your vocabulary. Read newspapers, magazines, websites, novels and children's books. Choose something that genuinely interests you (not just one challenging).

"Stretch your ear to a newspaper and read out loud to improve your voice.

"While reading a book, underline all the words you do not know. Look them up in the dictionary.

"Make a list of those words and make sure you use at least five of them in a conversation during the day.

During the day, keep a daily journal where you can practice using new words and expressions. This helps reinforce vocabulary and communication skills.

There are just some of the many useful and interesting tips to be found in Crown English and Filipino students' enrichment materials (SEM), such as "Stinger" and "Tomball" by high school students and "Mentorship" and "Tomball" by high school students.

"Tomball" and "Mentorship" Series Filipino SEM, also to develop the reading, writing, and speaking skills in Filipino of the students by utilizing the multi-language approach in their texts and articles and regular lessons, thus integrating the lessons in the magazines to other subjects such as social studies, values education, etc. and follow the same defined and developed from the new curriculum of DepEd.

"Mentorship" and "Mentorship" Series English SEM, provide proper foundation and motivation for young writers and speakers and help students understand and fully enjoy themselves. Moreover, these SEMs reach the English language proficiency in the context of Philippine culture and history to students significantly from their own culture and language.

# My Notes Never Looked This Good

I just can't think that feeling of success.

I have every reason to smile because I've got my Corona, Blue Feather and Green Apple Notebooks. These are the most perfectly smooth pages capricious are. It makes my notes look so good and it's something I just can't do without for an exceptional performance every school year.

With Corona, Blue Feather and Green Apple Notebooks, success never goes out of style.



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